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the region and season in which these notes were taken. We would be glad to have seen lists comparing summer and permanent residents and likewise areal lists, because the life zone of the coast is evidently not the same as that inland. This number starts a series of special papers, which we foresee will play no small part in western ornithology. We are bound to say the first number fulfills the requirements of a first-class publication and does credit to the club which is responsible for launching it into a world already flooded with so many good efforts.

W. K. F.



NORTH AMERICAN FAUNA No. 19 contains the "Results of a Biological Reconnaissance of the Yukon River Region," Alaska. The "Annotated List of Birds" is by Dr. L. B. Bishop, who accompanied the expedition as a volunteer assistant. The List proper consists of 171 species and subspecies, all of which are stated to have been seen or obtained by the party. There are more or less extended field notes, and in some cases technical remarks. Preceding the list is a four-page "Introduction" and a "Classified List of Species." The map accompanying this number of the *North American Fauna* serves to show the route traversed by the expedition. But we are sorry to find that only a very few of the localities mentioned in the text are indicated on the map, a fault which is quite obvious to one not having at hand any recent charts of Alaska.

Over 2000 miles of Alaskan territory were covered by the expedition, including nearly the whole length of the Yukon River. This being all accomplished within four months' time, a thorough exploration of any single locality passed through could not be expected; and at the most, the time for observation and collecting at any one point was altogether too short. The results of this trip are, therefore, quite remarkable. Eighteen species are recorded for the first time from the Upper Yukon. They are as follows: *Tringa bairdii*, *Sympetrum semipalmata inornata*, *Buteo borealis calurus*, *Falco sparverius*, *Contopus borealis*, *Contopus richardsoni saturatus*, *Empidonax traillii alnorum*, *Empidonax hammondi*, *Spinus pinus*, *Spizella socialis arizonae*, *Passerella iliaca*, *Helminthophila peregrina*, *Dendroica townsendi*, *Wilsonia pusilla pileolata*, *Sitta canadensis*, *Hylocichla aonlaschkae*, *H. aonlaschkae pallasi*, *Saxicola ananthe*.

Nine species are newly recorded from southeastern Alaska, mostly taken in the vicinity of Skagway and Glacier. These are: *Aechmophorus occidentalis*, *Xema sabini*, *Lagopus leucurus*, *Picoides americanus alasensis*, *Contopus richardsoni saturatus*, *Empidonax hammondi*, *Junco hyemalis connectens*, *Sitta canadensis*, *Merula migratoria*.

*Haliaeetus albicilla*, the Gray Sea Eagle, is

for the first time recorded from western North America, on the strength of a young specimen found dead at Unalaska. *Larus philadelphia*, *Tringa maculata*, *Tringa acuminata* and *Loxia curvirostra minor* are also recorded as new to Unalaska. *Larus philadelphia* and *Tringa acuminata* are added to the avifauna of the Pribilof Islands.

A number of recently described races of western birds are recognized in the list, among which we note *Canachites canadensis osgoodi* BISHOP, which has seemed to us to be identical with *C. canadensis labradorius* BANGS, no matter what ought to be the case from a zoographical point of view. We hope the A. O. U. Committee will be enabled to see a good series of Alaskan *Canachites* before passing on the alleged race.

The biographical notes on some of the species, although brief, are of especial interest. For instance, under the Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*) which was found to be more or less common along the Upper Yukon, may be quoted: "They were nesting about the cliff as a rule, but several times we saw them enter holes in banks similar to those of *Clivicola riparia*, while at Fort Selkirk they were nesting in the interstices between the logs of the cabins." Townsend's Solitaire was also found on the Upper Yukon, and its remarkably beautiful song is described at length.

Thus are the birds of even the most remote corners of North America rapidly becoming known. Alaska seems to be a region of especial interest just now. But there certainly still remains many surprises for the observer who is willing to make systematic notes and collections for an extended period in any one of the many out-of-the-way districts, especially of the southern coast of Alaska.

J. G.



YEAR BOOK OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 1899. (Washington, 1900). The present year book is an unusually interesting volume, embracing as it does the report of each bureau of "the progress made in the application to agriculture of the particular science with which it is concerned." Ornithology and its progress during the century is ably handled by Dr. T. S. Palmer in a noteworthy contribution entitled "A Review of Economic Ornithology in the United States." The results of fourteen years' work of the Biological Survey are shown, and the commercial uses of birds taken up with reference to their value as game and as egg, guano and feather producers, while on the other hand, their value as insect and weed destroyers is forcibly pointed out. A *resume* of the various laws enacted for bird protection is given and the paper is illustrated with two full-page plates, one showing the wholesale collecting of albatross eggs and the other a vast

rookery of the birds on Laysan Island, H. I. The complete Year Book consists of 880 pages.—C. B.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SUBSPECIES OF *Meleagris gallopavo* AND PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE NOMENCLATURE OF CERTAIN NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS. By E. W. Nelson. (Author's separate from the *Auk* XVII, No. 2, Apr. 1900)

This paper is of interest to Coast ornithologists in that it proposes to separate the flickers of California and the rocky mountain region from *colaptes cafer*, under the sub-specific name of *Colaptes cafer collaris* (Vig.), the sub-species being "distinguished from true *cafer* by its larger size, decidedly longer bills, paler upper parts, more sparsely spotted under parts and broader black tips to tail-feathers." The range of *C. c. saturator* remains as before.

*Sayornis nigricans* is subdivided into three races, of which *Sayornis n. semiatra* (Vigors) is ascribed to the "Pacific Coast of Mexico and the United States from Colima to Oregon, including most of Arizona." It is stated that the type localities of both *Colaptes cafer collaris* and *Sayornis nigricans semiatra* may be considered as Monterey, Cal.—C. B.

FOOD OF THE BOBOLINK, BLACKBIRDS AND GRACKLES. (Bulletin No. 13, Department of Agriculture. By F. E. L. Beal, 1900).

This is another of the excellent food bulletins issued by the Biological Survey. The food habits of the several birds are gone into minutely, and in each case large numbers of stomachs have been examined and the contents tabulated in careful form. Notes from observers are also given, all of which permits of the possibility of making the deductions correct, so that they may be applied generally to any locality. The bobolink finds the balance against him, owing to the extensive depredations upon the rice crop in the South, aside from which the species does not appear to be injurious. Much evidence is presented for and against the blackbirds, the chief danger seeming to be in the localities where the birds congregate in great numbers, in which cases their capacity to do damage is tremendous if the opportunity offers. This bulletin should be in the hands of every ornithologist as well as every enterprising agriculturist, that they may appreciate the exceedingly valuable and systematic work which is being done by the Biological Survey for agricultural interests.—C. B.



Mr. Joseph Mailliard presented a paper entitled "Spring Notes from Merced County, California" at a recent meeting of the Section of Ornithology of the California Academy of Sciences.

## Publications Received

DUGMORE A. RADCLYFFE, Bird Homes. (See Sept. review).

KOBBE, W. H. The Birds of Cape Disappointment, Washington. (From 'The Auk' XVII, Oct. 1900).

NELSON, E. W. Descriptions of Thirty New North American Birds, in the Biological Survey Collection. (from 'The Auk,' XVII, July 1900).

NELSON, E. W. Description of a New Subspecies of *Meleagris gallopavo* and Proposed Changes in the Nomenclature of certain North American Birds. (From 'The Auk,' XVII, April, 1900).

OSGOOD, WILFRED H., North American Fauna No. 18; Revision of the Pocket Mice of the Genus *Perognathus*. Sept. 20, 1900.

SHUFELDT, DR. R. W. Professor Collett on the Morphology of the Cranium and the Auricular Openings in the North-European Species of the Family *Strigidae*. (Reprint from the Journal of Morphology, XVII No. 1).

VAN DENBURGH, J. Notes on Some Birds of Santa Clara Co., California (See Sept. review).

*Annual Report of the U. S. National Museum* 1898.

Aside from the formal report of the work accomplished by the Museum during the year, the volume is devoted to an exhaustive treatise on "The Crocodilians, Lizards and Snakes of North America" by Edw. D. Cope.

*A Review of Economic Ornithology in the United States.* By T. S. Palmer (Reprint from Yearbook for 1899).

*Auk, The* XVII, Nos. 3, 4. July. October 1900.

*Bird-Lore*, II Nos. 4, 5. Aug. Oct. 1900.

*Bittern, The* I, Nos. 2, 3. Aug. Oct. 1900.

*Biological Survey Circular No. 28.* Directory of state officials and organizations concerned with the protection of birds and game.

*Biological Survey Circular No. 29.* Protection and importation of birds under act of Congress approved May 25, 1900.

*Biological Survey Circular No. 31.* Information Concerning Game; Seasons, Shipment, and Sale.

*Bulletin No. 13*, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Food of the Bobolink, Blackbirds and Grackles. 1900.

*Bulletin No. 56*, Agricultural Experiment Station of the Agricultural College of Colorado. A second appendix to Bulletin No. 37 on 'The Birds of Colorado.' May. 1900.

*Bulletin of the Chicago Academy of Sciences*, II. Nos. III and IV, June 1900.

*Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society*, II. No. 3, July 1900.

*Land of Sunshine* XIII, Nos. 2, 3 and 4. July, Aug., Sept.-Oct., '00.